United States EPA Organizational Assessment of Performance

Organization: __ORD_____   2. Fiscal Year: 2017

Key Events/Issues/Challenges and Management Actions

Improving Air Quality:

- Developed the Healthy Heart Toolkit in support of the Million Hearts Initiative, which provides resources to clinicians and patients that explain the connection between air pollution and heart health.
- Released an updated version of the **Community Multiscale Air Quality** (CMAQ) modeling system, which uses state-of-the-science air quality modeling techniques to provide near and long-term data to support NAAQS policymaking.
- Completed **27 approvals of Federal Reference Method** and Federal Equivalent Method designations and modifications
- Released **Next Generation Emissions Measurements** (NGEM) for fence-line monitoring implementation and the expansion of new monitoring approaches to chemical facilities in an effort to reduce costs and regulatory burden.
- Leveraged government and private sector resources for innovation challenges and Citizen Science including developing affordable nutrient and air sensors and high throughput toxicity testing.

Protecting America's Waters:

- Published a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of the **Gold King Mine** release on water quality to assist monitoring activities and cleanup efforts.
- Delivered and installed EPANET-RTX hardware and software in the **City of Flint's** water system to allow utility managers and operators to more easily access system data and better manage water quality.
- Activated the **Cyanobacteria Assessment Network** (CyAN), which is satellite imagery system used by the State of Utah Department of Environmental Quality to identify harmful algal blooms in the Provo Bay, prompting public health advisories.
- Worked with Office of Water to use advanced exposure modeling techniques to inform the **Revised Lead Copper Rule.**
- Partnered with Office of Water and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators to organize a workshop with over 400 stakeholders to address infrastructure challenges, system management, corrosion control, monitoring and more.
- Released agency-wide guidance to improve consistency and transparency on the use of evidence in ecological assessments that will better inform the use of science in policymaking.

Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development:

- Released the **Risk Informed Material Management** (RIMM) System, which enables state and local decision-makers to more easily access information regarding waste and toxic material system management.
- Provided site-specific support to assist program staff with issues related to water contamination, site remediation, technological challenges, and about **250 Superfund and Brownfields sites** across all ten EPA regions.
- Advanced EPA's sampling and analysis capabilities and capacity to improve chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) incident response by developing standardized analytical methods and information documents.
- Released an interim inter-agency report on the health effects of **tire crumb** use in synthetic turf to inform future research.
- Aided in **Hurricanes Harvey and Irma** responses by implementing waste cleanup (I-Waste) and analytical assessments.
- Collaborated with DOD and DHS to advance **subway system decontamination** in the event of biological attacks.

Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals and Preventing Pollution:

- Supported the implementation of the **new TSCA legislation** by developing computational toxicological tools, models, and data streams to improve chemical prioritization, alternative testing strategies, and regulatory implementation.
- Convened a Cross-Agency group to establish priorities to address Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs) risks.
- Led collaborative case studies with national and international regulators to accelerate the pace of chemical assessments.
- Released final **IRIS assessments** for Benzo[a]pyrene and Ethylene Oxide, implemented streamlined and more transparent assessment document structures, and completed **12 Provisional Peer Reviewed Toxicity Assessments** (PPRTVs).

Accomplishments that support FY 2017 Cross-Agency Strategies

- Engaged in a **cooperative federalist** approach to research planning through a series of webinars and face-to-face meetings with the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) and the Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS).
- Used land use, health impact, and economic development data to disseminate a prospectus laying out an interagency research strategy to confront ongoing challenges in wildfire and controlled burn strategies.
- Continued implementing the Open Data Access Plan, making **790 ORD publications and datasets** publically available.
- Completed an analysis finding ORD work is aligned with **18 different statutes** mandating or authorizing its research.
- Launched the **Regional/ORD Community of Science Networking** (ROCS-Net) Program to help scientists across the country collaborate, build expert networks, and strengthen connections with EPA regions. States will be included in FY18.

Efficiencies, Cost-Savings, and Administrative Accomplishments

- Took a more robust role in the **Agency Strategic Plan** by establishing a Strategic Objective for the first time in over 10 years, while expanding the analysis of monthly, quarterly, annual, and Strategic metrics informing program evaluations.
- **Consolidated leased facility space** by leading the effort to vacate the 16,000 sq foot Las Vegas facility and continued coordination with Region 4 on consolidating the use of federal space in the Athens, Georgia laboratory.
- Launched a **Data Analytics program** to collect and visualize complex budget, administrative, and performance data into one streamlined dashboard system in order to allow for more efficient decision making and management of resources.
- Rolled out TechTracker, a database to track unplanned scientific and technical support to programs, regions, and states.
- **ORD 2017 EVS results** saw increases in all indices including a 2% increase in the Global Satisfaction Index (68%); a 4% increase in Employee Engagement (72%); and 4% higher than the Agency on the New IQ (Inclusion Quotient (69%).